



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Philippines, U.S. Sign Agreement to Enhance DOJ Capacity To Prosecute and Convict Human Traffickers**

Manila -- The Philippines and the United States signed today, August 19, a letter of agreement for a three-year joint project that will strengthen the Philippines' capacity to prosecute and convict human traffickers.

The project, which will receive \$500,000 in funding from the U.S. Government, creates a position for an Intermittent Legal Advisor, a U.S. Government prosecutor who will work with the Philippine Department of Justice on improving the capacity of the Philippine prosecution and law enforcement sectors to investigate, prosecute, and convict persons engaged in human trafficking. The agreement represents an amendment to the letter of agreement on law enforcement that the two governments signed in 2006.

Philippine Secretary of Justice Leila M. De Lima and U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr. signed the agreement during the meeting of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking at the Department of Justice this afternoon.

At the signing of the letter of agreement in Manila, U.S. Ambassador Thomas noted that the U.S. and the Philippines "share a strong and mutual commitment to protect and promote respect for human rights" and to "combat the gross injustice that is human trafficking."

The signing of the letter of agreement today, according to Ambassador Thomas, signals "another milestone in our shared effort to end the scourge of human trafficking a modern-day form of slavery."

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